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Atty. Dkt. No. 040679-1012

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroaki MIURA et al.
Title: SOUND ABSORBING MATERIAL
AND INTERIOR MATERIAL
USING THE SAME
Appl. No.: 09/506,489
Filing Date: 02/18/2000
Examiner: J. Pierce
Art Unit: 1771

SUPPLEMENTAL REPLY

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is supplemental to the RCE and Amendment filed on August 29, 2003. Reconsideration of the application as follows is solicited.

REMARKS

Claims 3-6, 13, 14, 17 and 18 are pending in the application. No changes have been made to the claims by way of this Supplemental Reply. Thus, claims 3-6, 13, 14, 17 and 18 remain pending for reconsideration.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 3-5, 7 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,066,388 to Van Kerrebrouck ("Van Kerrebrouck" hereafter). Claims 3-7, 13 and 14 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Kerrebrouck in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,554,831 to Matsukawa ("Matsukawa" hereafter).

Independent claims 3 and 13 were amended in the July 29, 2003 reply to include the subject matter of dependent claims 7, 15 and 16, which were canceled. The Office Action of August 20, 2003 indicated that this amendment had not been considered, because it incorporated limitations into the independent claims from multiple dependent claims which were not previously considered in combination with one another, and thus raised new issues requiring an updated search. Thus, Applicants filed the request for continuing examination

(RCE) on August 29, 2003 in order to have this amendment entered and fully considered by the Examiner. Applicants submit that this amendment overcomes the prior art rejections for the reasons set forth in the July 29, 2003 reply, and early notification of the same is earnestly solicited.

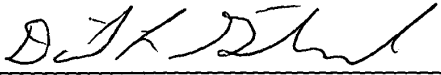
Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 10, 2003

By 

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.